

Among Irish records, Irish land and property records are some with the best survival rate. In this class we will discuss some of the major types of Irish land and property records, what they contain, and how to access them. To introduce the recently filmed records for Irish research, I need to lay some groundwork concerning Irish tax records of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which consist primarily of the Tithe Applotment and Griffith's Valuation.

## **TITHE APLOTMENT**

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- Tithe Applotment, 1823-1837 tax record. Contains heads of households only, covers both those who leased land as well as those who owned land. Because it was based on land holding, the Tithe has few records for cities or large towns. It has been estimated that it contains only 40% of all heads of households.
- Found in the Family History Library Catalog (FHL) under Ireland—Land and Property *Tithe Applotment Books and Indexes, for Northern Ireland, 1822-1837* or *Applotment Books, abt. 1824-1840* for the Republic. At the FHL use the register in the reference area (currently being placed on the Family Search Research Wiki). CD series 9 part 262 (available at the Library Attendant window on the B2 floor) indexes Northern Ireland only. The database on this CD is also available on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
- Also indexed in the *Householder's Index*, FHL 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, films 919001-919007.

## **GRIFFITH'S VALUATION**

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### Griffith's Primary Valuation

- Griffith's Primary General Valuation, 1848-1864 tax record. Contains heads of households only, covers both those who leased land as well as those who owned land. It has an estimated coverage of 80-90% of all heads of households.
- Found in the FHL under Ireland—Land and Property *General Valuation of Rateable Property in Northern Ireland, 1858-1864* or *General Valuation of Rateable Property, 1847-1861* for the Republic. Or use the register in the reference area. FHL CD series 9 part 188 indexes all of Ireland, with some accidental omissions. John Grenham's *Irish Record Finder*, FHL CD 1801 (easier to use on FHL B2 computers CD-1 and CD-2) maps surname distribution to the parish level based on Griffith's. Also, Griffith's is indexed complete with scanned images at [www.irishorigins.com](http://www.irishorigins.com) (\$ - this site also has some of the Griffith's maps). A 90% complete index of Griffith's with images is available for free at [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie). A complete (with accidental omissions) index is available on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (\$ but free at FHL).
- Also indexed (surname only) in *Householder's Index* FHL 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, films 919001-919007.

Ancestors that eluded Griffith's Valuation may sometimes be found in other valuation records from both before and after the Primary Valuation.

## **GRIFFITH'S VALUATION SUPPORTING WORKS**

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### Post-Valuation Records - Revision Lists, Cancel Books, or Cancellation Books

- These are Valuation Lists covering from the 1850's into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They are lists of occupiers kept after the Primary Valuation. You may be able to trace who held a tenement from generation to generation in these books. One note on using the Valuation Lists is they are arranged backwards. That is, the beginning of the film has the newest books, and the books get older as you continue in the film.
- The FHL has filmed these for the Republic of Ireland only. The film numbers for each parish are in the process of being listed on the FamilySearch Research Wiki. In the FHL, they are cataloged under the county and then "Land and Property" and then by Poor Law Union (PLU) and then by District Electoral Division (DED). If not in the Research Wiki yet, use [www.seanruad.com](http://www.seanruad.com) to ascertain the PLU. Use the

1871 Townland Index to find the PLU and DED. Alternatively, use the FHL Catalog record for the townland in the 1911 census to find the DED. Locate the 1911 census FHLC record by doing a 'Keyword' search for the townland.

### Pre-Valuation Records

- There were several surveys taken under the direction of Richard Griffith in preparation for the Primary Valuation. Among these are Field Books, Tenure Books, House Books and Quarto Books.
- The Family History Library has filmed many of these records for both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Film numbers will soon be added to the FamilySearch Research Wiki. Look in the Wiki for the parish of interest to get film numbers. If it is not yet listed in the Wiki, you can find the film number(s) in the FHLC using a **keyword** search with the words **Ireland Tenure Quarto**. They may also be found in the FHLC under Ireland and then the topic "Land and Property," then look for the title "Valuation Books" with the author "Ireland. General Valuation Office."
- The FHL has filmed the House books, Field books, Tenure books, and Quarto books. Although it was filmed at the National Archives in Dublin, it does contain much material for Northern Ireland.

### House Books or Quarto Books

- There was a stipulation that a house only be valued if it was worth £3 and later £5. However in many counties they valued homes that were way under that limit. The names of the occupiers of each house are listed. However, in a parish in Donegal, only two people listed, the richest two people in the parish, no doubt, the landlord and the Anglican minister.
- These books cover the late 1820s to the early 1850s.
- According to Reilly (see below) Quarto books are for House books for large towns.
- The house books describe the size and quality of the house. Here is what the letters meant (from Reilly, p. 18, see below):

#### New or Nearly New

A+ Built or ornamented with cut stone, and of superior solidity, and finish.

A Very substantial building, and finish, without cut stone ornament

A- Ordinary building and finish or either of the above when built 20 or 25 years.

#### Medium

B+ Medium (not new) but in sound order, and good repair

B Medium, slightly decayed, but in good repair

B- medium, deteriorated by age, and not in perfect repair

#### Old

C+ Old, but in repair

C Old and out of repair

C- Old, and dilapidated, scarcely habitable

#### Each letter was further qualified with the number 1, 2 or 3:

1 Slated roof house of stone or brick with lime mortar

2 Thatched roof house of stone or brick with lime mortar

3 Thatched house of stone walls with mud mortar or mud walls of the best kind

4 Basement stories of slated houses used as dwellings

### Field Books

- The field books were created by the valuers looking at the soil in every parish in all of Ireland. A description of the soils and its worth is given.
- The content varies. In some areas, the valuers added the names of the occupiers to the field books. David Ouimette states that the Field books for counties Cork, Dublin, Kerry and Limerick give occupiers' names for all parishes, and the books for Carlow, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow give occupiers names for most parishes. Other counties only give occupiers names for a few parishes.

## Tenure Books

- Tenure books describe the type of lease each tenement was held under. Includes names of all of the tenement holders.
- Lease terms include beginning year of lease and length of lease.

For background information on both of these sources, please refer to James Reilly, *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland* (Baltimore, Maryland : Printed for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co., 2000), FHL Brit Ref 941.5 R43rj).

For a good overview and historical background on these books, see David Ouimette, "Irish Townland and Tenement Valuation Manuscripts," *The Septs*, v. 27 no. 1 (Jan 2006), FHL British book 941.5 D25s v.27, no.1.

## SOURCES AND SUGGESTED READING

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- Reilly, James. *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland*. Baltimore, Maryland : Printed for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co., 2000, FHL Brit Ref 941.5 R43rj.
- Sources [electronic database], National Library of Ireland. <http://sources.nli.ie>, has over 180,000 references, including the card catalog of the NLI; contains the entirety of Hayes' Sources for Irish Civilization.
- "Valuation Office Revision Books" in FamilySearch Research Wiki. [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland\\_Land\\_and\\_Property#Valuation\\_Office\\_Revision\\_Books](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland_Land_and_Property#Valuation_Office_Revision_Books)

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